

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01      GEORGE 02030 291229Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----097631 291231Z /53  
O 291205Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5200

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2030

EXDIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE

FOR WHITE HOUSE-PHIL WISE  
WHITE HOUSE ADVANCE OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OTRA, PDIP, PN, PPDC, GY  
SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONIES FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

REF: STATE 205707

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AUGUST 28  
AND DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. BURNHAM  
WAS VISIBLY PLEASED OVER IT. HE IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT  
HE APPRECIATED AND WAS HONORED BY THE INVITATION AND  
THE WARMTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS. HE WANTED VERY  
MUCH TO VISIT PRESIDENT CARTER AND WOULD LIKE TO  
ACCEPT THE INVITATION, BUT HE COULD NOT GIVE AN  
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT TIME WAS  
VERY LIMITED AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD A DEADLINE FOR  
A RESPONSE. I SAID THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF A DEADLINE  
BUT I WOULD INQUIRE AND LET HIM KNOW. IF BURNHAM CAN  
ATTEND THE CEREMONY HE WILL TAKE HIS WIFE VIOLA AND  
PROBABLY FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS WITH HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02      GEORGE 02030 291229Z

2. BURNHAM EXPLAINED THAT THE POLITICAL CRISIS CAUSED  
BY THE INDUSTRY-WIDE SUGAR STRIKE LAUNCHED BY OPPOSITION  
LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN ON AUGUST 24 WAS THE REASON HE COULD  
NOT GIVE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER. THE STRIKE GIVEN THE  
EXISTING CRISIS IN GUYANA'S ECONOMY WAS, IN BURHAM'S  
WORDS, THE MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL FIGHT HE HAD FACED--  
AN ARMAGEDDON. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO END THE STRIKE

THIS COMING WEEK BUT HE WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE SAID IF HE LOST THIS BATTLE IT WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR HIS-GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, IF HE CAN BREAK THE STRIKE JAGAN WOULD BE FINISHED AS AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL LEADER. THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THE STRIKE AND OTHER SUBJECTS ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

3. COMMENT: BURNHAM'S STATEMENT THAT THE STRIKE NOW PARALYZING GUYANA'S PRINCIPAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE INDUSTRY IS OF GRAVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS ACCURATE. EVEN WITHOUT THE STRIKE GUYANA HAS INSUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO MEET ITS IMPORT NEEDS, AND NUMEROUS DEBTS ARE BEING DEFERRED. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. ADVISE CONCERNING DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF BURNHAM SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT ARISE DURING OUR MEETING, IF HE CANNOT ATTEND WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE IF HE WERE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE SUCH AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER?  
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY SIGNATURE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVITATIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GEORGE02030  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770311-0732  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GEORGETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770814/aaaaakws.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b1045851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 205707  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1453193  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIGNING CEREMONIES FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES  
**TAGS:** OTRA, PDIP, PPDC, EWWT, OVIP, PN, GY, US, (BURNHAM, L F S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b1045851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009